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The PRESIDENT said the object of Livingstone, now that he had accomplished this remarkable journey in a small boat, after carrying it up the Shiré alongside the cataracts which had been alluded to, was to convey a small steamer, which the Government had placed at his disposal, by the same route from the Zambesi to the lake, in the hope that it would enable him to put an effectual stoppage to the slave-trade proceeding across these waters from the westward. Hordes of slaves are brought down from the interior, and carried across the lake at certain passages where the lake is narrowest. The most cruel part of the traffic is that when the lakes are passed; the slave-gangs are driven down to the coast, and lodged in the malarious recesses and bights at the mouths of the rivers, until the slave-ships are ready to take them away. In this way hundreds of them perish, as shown by the skeletons which have been found there. With a single small steamer, still better with two, Livingstone contends he could do more to check the slave-trade than by a number of large vessels stationed off the coast; since it is impossible for these to hunt out every little bay into which the slaves are driven. In this way, therefore, at much less eventual expense, Livingstone may be able to carry out this great object which he has at heart.

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2. *Letters from CAPTAINS SPEKE and GRANT, of the East African Expedition.*

THESE are dated at various times between February and September, 1861, during which interval the travellers encountered great difficulties, due to two independent causes. The country had been afflicted with drought and famine to an extent which made all traffic exceedingly difficult, and there were native wars on the occasion of a disputed succession to a chieftainship. As a partial consequence of these, the porters who accompanied Captains Speke and Grant were constantly abandoning their service, either fearing the danger or taking advantage of the general lawlessness of the land. The geographical additions to our knowledge are thus far of little importance. The movements of the travellers have been seriously embarrassed; Captain Speke has also suffered, and recovered from, an attack of weakening fever. The latest intelligence was the most favourable: the party were then encamped in s. lat.  $3^{\circ} 26'$ , interpreters had been procured, a sufficiency of porters had been obtained, and Speke and Grant were on the point of advancing towards the Nianza Lake. Robberies and desertions had materially reduced their funds; but Captain Speke's last letter, of September 30, 1861, was written in better spirits. He regrets that, as circumstances have turned out, he did not attempt the northern route to the Nianza by way of Kilimanjaro, instead of following his previous track.

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3. *Proceedings of MR. CONSUL PETHERICK, F.R.G.S., on the White Nile.*

MR. PETHERICK's departure from Khartum was delayed so long, that the periodical winds of the White Nile had changed to his

disadvantage, and he was wind-bound to the north of the Bahr el Ghazal. Owing to the representations of the British Acting Consul-General at Alexandria, His Highness the Viceroy of Egypt had sent instructions to the Governor of the Sudan to forward such assistance as might be necessary to Mr. Petherick.

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4. *Letters from* SAMUEL W. BAKER, ESQ., F.R.G.S., *on his Travels by the Atbara River and its Tributaries, in Nubia, dated September 10th, 1862.*

THE author spent some months shooting in the neighbourhood of the tributaries of the Atbara River, the single confluent of the Nile, and visited a large amount of country that had previously been undescribed. The chief tributaries of the Atbara are the Settite, Salaam, and Angarep; he considers the former to be the parent of the river. These streams, which are copious near their sources in the high lands of Abyssinia and pour increased volumes of water during the rains, are barely capable of reaching the Nile in the dry season. They are absorbed in sands and lost in fissures. Even the Atbara itself dwindles down to an insignificant stream before entering the Nile. They traverse a land that has great natural fertility, and is cultivated for cotton. A curious colony of natives of Darfur, called Tokrowris, cultivate cotton extensively: they are pilgrims who have settled by the way, on their return from Mecca. The author desires to draw attention to these large and fertile districts as a possible source of an abundant supply of cotton. Mr. Baker had excellent sport in shooting elephants and other game. He dates his letter from Khartum, whence he proposed proceeding up the White Nile for the purposes of exploration. He speaks strongly of the wretched state of lawlessness into which the White Nile races have been driven by the unscrupulous conduct of the native servants of traders on that river.

THE PRESIDENT said there were several other communications which there would be no time to read. They had received a few words from Captain Burton, who had ascended a mountain, which he calls the Elephant Mountain, in the Bight of Benin; then they had a communication from Mr. Moffat, brother of the late lamented Mrs. Livingstone, suggesting the employment of camels for explorations in Southern Africa; and they had received the following communication from the Foreign Office:—

“I am directed by Earl Russell to transmit to you herewith, to be laid before the Committee of the Royal Geographical Society, an extract from a despatch from the British acting Consul-General at Alexandria, relative to the difficulties in which Mr. Consul Petherick and his party were placed in the White Nile, according to information received from Khartum, on the 11th of August last.

“I am to add that, on the pressing representations of Mr. Consul Sanders,